

## Texas Organizing Project

### Questions for EPA Open House 12/11

#### General Questions

Does the CES site pose risk to public health and the environment?

The primary threats associated with the site is the potential exposure to the surrounding populations from releases from the containers located on the site. Additionally, storm water could carry materials spilled or materials already spilled off-site impacting both the residential populations and the environment.

(POLREP #1 9/9/2014)

How will EPA communicate this risk to the public?

What is EPA's plan for reducing this risk?

The EPA Team will be processing the data and writing the final report for the EPA portion of the response effort. The data collected will be used to determine if additional actions need to be taken within the residential area due to historical releases from the facility in combination with this spill. It is anticipated that the residential area will be evaluated by a remedial assessment as part of the preliminary assessment/site inspection activities already being planned. (POLREP #1 8/2/2014)

How will the impacted community be involved in the process?

The EPA will continue to produce fact sheets and hold information sessions as new information is available. This information can also be accessed on our web-site or by calling our toll-free number 1-800-533-3508, and asking for the Community Involvement Coordinator for the site.

#### A. Air Monitoring

August 2, 2014, the EPA conducted air sampling in the residential neighborhood and onsite. (POLREP #1 8/2/2014)

1. Have air monitoring stations been set up?

Air monitoring stations have not been set up at this time. Any thing that is removed from the site that could be released into the air, is monitors and/or sent through a carbon air filtration system.

2. Where?

On site.

3. What has each monitoring state discovered?

NA

4. What is each monitoring station showing regarding exposure to hazardous substances?  
NA

#### B. Soil Testing

August 2, 2014, the EPA conducted soil sampling in residential areas including ditches and impacted soil areas during the emergency response action of that date. (POLREP #1 8/2/2014)

1. Has soil testing been conducted on the site?  
Not at this time. During the removal process visible spill and visibly contaminated areas will be addressed on site.
2. Has soil testing been conducted in people's yards?  
The EPA has not done soil testing in residential properties (only during the emergency response Aug.2014) and it is not planned during the removal process. Such testing could be part of a future investigation.
3. Where specifically have soil samples been taken from?  
Ditches and impacted soil areas.
4. What has each sample location shown?  
NA
5. What health risks are present?  
NA

#### C. Groundwater Testing

August 2, 2014, the EPA conducted air sampling in the residential neighborhood and onsite during the emergency response action . (Aug.2, 2014) (POLREP #1 8/2/2014)

1. Have monitoring wells been dug?  
No.
2. Where?  
NA
3. What has each monitoring well shown in terms of hazardous substances?  
NA
4. Is there evidence of an underground plume?  
NA
5. What substances does the underground plume contain?  
NA
6. What is the location of the underground plume?  
NA
7. Does the plume reach outside of the CES site?  
NA
8. Where?  
NA
9. The well that SKA was drilling: is that EPA's monitoring well?

No

D. Surface Water/Runoff Water testing

1. Has ponded water or runoff water been tested?

Yes

2. What were the findings?

NA

3. If the water is contaminated, how will it be contained on site?

A dyke was installed on the CES property and spill prevention materials used around potential problems on site. The above ground storage tanks are enclosed in a containment system that would help manage any leaks. The pooled areas water has been discharged to the City of Houston Sanitary Sewers. It is treated at the Houston Water Treatment Facility and no longer discharged to storm sewers untreated.

E. Indoor Testing

1. Is there a plan for indoor testing of homes, schools, businesses and churches?

Not at this time. The EPA is in a removal action with the goal of removing all the above ground contaminated materials from the site.

2. Has it been carried out?

NA

3. When will it be carried out?

NA

4. What are the findings?

NA

F. Onsite contaminants

1. Has the EPA determined the exact contaminants that exist on the CES site?

There are a number of containments on site, as listed on our past fact sheet. More information on the quantities will be listed on our web-site in the near future.

<http://www.epaosc.net>

2. What are the contaminants?

3. How much of each contaminant?

4. Which of these contaminants pose a risk to human health and to what extent do they pose a risk?

5. What contaminants and how much of each have been removed from the site?

6. What contaminants and how much of each remain at the site?

7. Are funds available to remove all the remaining contaminants?

At this time the answer is yes, but any unforeseen event could effect this outcome.

8. What is the timeline for the removal of the remaining contaminants?

Early spring

9. What contaminants are producing the odor? What are the human health risks of exposure to the airborne contaminants?

The chemical odors emanating from the Site are the result of compromised chemical containers containing cresol/phenolic compounds and historic spillage. The odors and

potential threats will continue until all waste materials are removed from the Site and properly disposed. (Fact Sheet)

10. When will the contaminants causing the odor be removed from the site?

NA

#### G. Site Security

1. There is a temporary earth berm around the site. Is that berm continuous, intact and will it prevent the escape of contaminants from the site in the event of a major rain event?

August 1, 2014, the City of Houston installed dikes at the front (North side) and South side of the facility to slow material from migrating off site. The city of Houston mobilized its contractor and recovered 6,000 gallons of an oily water mixture from ditches within the residential area. (POLREP #1 8/2/2014)

2. Is the site full secure from vandalism and is the risk of a future spill negligible at this point?

The EPA repaired on-site fencing to restrict access and trimmed and collect cutting from stained ditch lines and residential properties August 2, 2014. (POLREP #1 8/2/2014)

#### H. Cleanup

What is the detailed estimate cost for cleanup and full site remediation?

The EPA mobilized ERRS and START Contractors with an estimated site cost at \$2,000,000.00. The cleanup contractor EERS will cost approximately \$1,850,000.00. The transportation contractor START is estimated to cost the site approximately \$150,000.00. (POLREP #1 9/9/2014) To date, the expenses are as follows:

1. How much does EPA have budgeted for this project?  
\$2,000,000.00
2. Where will additional funds come from to complete cleanup and full site remediation?  
That will be determined in the future and depends on a number of considerations.
3. What cleanup activities and how many are unfunded at this point?  
NA
4. What is the timeline for EPA's current cleanup activities?  
EPA is expecting to finish the removal action this Spring. Numerous events can delay our progress such as major storms, financial delays in the Federal Budget, and unforeseen events.
5. What is the timeline to complete cleanup activities?  
Removals time line is early Spring.

#### I. Future Site Usage

The EPA and TCEQ are currently reviewing facility documents to identify PRPs. If liable and viable PRPs are identified, the EPA will begin negotiations for a potential takeover of the current response actions.  
(POLREP #1 9/9/2014)

The following questions will be determined as we progress through the processes set in place by the EPA and Federal Guidelines.

1. The site is currently for sales by the bankruptcy trustee. How would a sale affect the EPA activities?
2. How would a sale affect the complete cleanup of the site?
3. Would a future owner be required to completely cleanup and fully remediate the site and surrounding properties?
4. Would a future owner be allowed to engage in similar line of business to that which CES was permitted to engage in?
5. What additional oversight, monitoring, licensing, etc., would apply to a new owner's activities on the former CES site?